Pilferage of Aviation Turbine Fuel

2851. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that lakhs of litres of Aviation Turbine Fuel is being stolen during transportation with the connivance of Defence personnel and company officials authorised for receiving the products on locations;

(b) if so, whether such thieves also adulterate the ATF during transportation period and further causes accidents of flights;

(c) whether Government propose to conduct enquiry against transport operators involved in this act; and

(d) if so, by when the enquiry shall be conducted?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. So far, no such case of loss of Aviation Turbine Fuel has come to the notice of Government. The oil companies are paid as per ATF physically delivered to IAF refueller or to the aircraft.

(b) The fuel being delivered to Air Force is tested by quality control agencies and there is no reported incidence of fuel contamination.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) of the question.

Destroying terrorist hideouts in PoK

†2852. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned as "PoK mein hathiaron ka jakhira banaya atankvadiyon ne" published at the page 12 of the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated the 31st July, 2002;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the steps taken by Government so far to destroy the hideouts of the terrorists and their stock of arms located in PoK;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the terrorists have started sneaking into India through Bangladesh; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government in this direction and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Though, there is no confirmed information regarding existence of arms/ ammunition dumps belonging to the militants in PoK, it has been reported that Pakistan ISI has resumed its assistance to the militants and many of the militants camps/training centres, which were closed or relocated to interior areas during July-August, 2002 have been reopened. Many of the launching detachments close to Line of Control/International Border, which had been shut down temporarily, have also been activated to ensure maximum infiltration of militants into Jammu & Kashmir before the onset of winter. Militants are issued arms and ammunition by the ISI before their infiltration.

(b) and (c) Adequate military measures have been taken to check terrorist infiltration from across Line of Control/International Border in Jammu & Kashmir. In addition, information regarding terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pak Occupied Kashmir, for support to terrorism is appropriately shared with other countries as a part of diplomatic/global effort against international terrorism. As a result, most countries have called upon Pakistan to fulfil its commitment to end cross border infiltration and terrorism.

(d) and (e) There are no confirmed reports to suggest such a move.

Coping with nuclear and terrorism disasters

2853. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a suggestion has been made in a recently held seminar "Disaster-Management and the Armed Forces" that India should train people to cope with nuclear and terrorism related disasters; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard?